



Field Bindweed

DID YOU KNOW?

Field bindweed is used as a medicine. It is also a weed that can be very difficult to destroy. Its vines can wrap around and choke many crop plants and flowers.

A piece of its root only 5 cm (2 in) long can grow into a new plant.



Its seeds can still sprout and grow after being buried in the soil for 50 years!

ORIGINS

Field bindweed is native to Europe and Asia. People accidentally brought it to other parts of the world. Its seeds were mixed in with grains that were being shipped.



THE FIELD BINDWEED PLANT

Field bindweed is a perennial. Its long, slender stems trail on the ground or wrap around other plants.

The vines grow 0.3 to 1.8 meters (about 1-8 ft) long.

The funnel-shaped flowers are white to pink in color.

The leaves are shaped like arrowheads.



The seeds grow in pods about 5 mm (0.2 in) long. On average, one plant produces about 550 seeds.



The plant has a thick taproot, which can grow to a depth of 7 meters (about 25 feet). Many side roots grow out from the taproot.

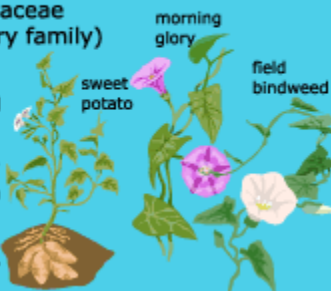


CLASSIFYING FIELD BINDWEED

FAMILY

Convolvulaceae
(morning glory family)

The family is commonly called the morning glory family because most of the flowers open in the morning, and close again in the afternoon.



GENUS

Convolvulus

In Latin, this means "to wrap around."

The stems of this family run along the ground and wrap around plants and other objects.



SPECIES

arvensis

"Arvensis" is Latin for "of the field."

Field bindweed grows as a weed in orchards, and in fields of corn, small grains, sugarbeets, and grapes.



FRIEND . . .

For many years, people used field bindweed as a medicine. Native Americans have used it to treat spider bites, fevers, and wounds. Europeans have used it as a laxative.



. . .OR FOE?

Field bindweed can quickly choke out other plants. The roots take up a lot of water from the soil, so crops and flowers growing near field bindweed cannot get enough water.



I'll keep cutting down the shoots. That way the food stored in the roots will be used up and the plant will eventually die. I'll also put a heavy layer of straw on the soil.